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Thursday, June 27, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Obama applauds high court ruling on gay marriage

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Wednesday hailed the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a law defining marriage as between a man and a woman -- a major victory for gay couples.

"I applaud the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act," Obama said shortly after the announcement of the 5-4 decision ending the 1996 law.

"This was discrimination enshrined in law. It treated loving, committed gay and lesbian couples as a separate and lesser class of people. The Supreme Court has righted that wrong, and our country is better off for it."

"We are a people who declared that we are all created equal -- and the love we commit to one another must be equal as well," he said, echoing remarks made in his second inaugural address in January.

The striking down of DOMA will allow married gay couples to enjoy the same federal benefits as

straight married couples, including with regard to inheritance and hospital visits.

Obama, currently traveling to Africa for a three-nation tour, said he had ordered officials to "ensure this decision, including its implications for federal benefits and obligations, is implemented swiftly and smoothly."

In addition to striking down the federal law, the Supreme Court threw out an appeal of a ruling against Proposition 8 -- a California state ban on gay marriage -- paving the way for same-sex marriage in the western state.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama had called Edith Windsor, the 83-year-old plaintiff in the case that overturned DOMA.

Windsor claimed discrimination when she was ordered to pay federal inheritance taxes of \$363,000 after the 2009 death of Thea Spyer, her partner of more than 40 years, whom she married in Canada in 2007.

Had the couple been straight, the tax bill would have been significantly reduced.

"The president congratulated her on this victory, which was a long time in the making," Carney said.

Obama also called Chad Griffin, head of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights advocacy group, and the plaintiffs in the Prop 8 case to congratulate them on a "tremendous victory," Carney said.

Obama, the first US president to come out in support of same-sex marriage, cast the court ruling on the DOMA as a landmark step in the US struggle for equal rights.

"The laws of our land are catching up to the fundamental truth that millions of Americans hold in our hearts: when all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free," he said.

San Nicolaas to become a Special Economic Zone



Last Friday, June 21st, the government signed the documents declaring San Nicolaas a Special Economic Zone. According to Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza, "...the establishment of an Economic Zone in San Nicolaas is something very big for San Nicolaas. It will make San Nicolaas more attractive to our tourists and the people who live there. It will also offer more opportunities to investors to invest in San Nicolaas. The Economic Zone in San Nicolaas will compliment the Green Corridor."

Special Economic Zones are special large areas of property considered cities on their own. On these territories all types of industrial activities as well as services can take place directed toward the local as well as the international markets. They offer a great diversity of benefits which vary from tax facilities to facilities on legislation. The Special Zone in San Nicolaas will offer definite fiscal benefits.

The Minister of Finance shared some of the most important fiscal benefits included in the documents signed last Friday.

Investors who establish their business in the Special Economic Zone in San Nicolaas will pay a tariff of 15% on profit taxes on activities directed to the local market, 10% profit tax on activities directed toward exportation

and sales to our hotels. For hotels there are additional special conditions.

For special sustainable projects, for example the production of food; if this is directed toward the local market, it will be possible to apply for a 2% profit tax tariff.

Businesses in the economic zone will not be levied taxes on dividends and will benefit from an additional 10% discount on all business investments, whether this is bought in Aruba or from

abroad.

This new economic zone, developed especially for San Nicolaas will take effect as of Monday, July 1st, 2013, according to Minister de Meza. There are already a number of merchants showing interest in establishing in San Nicolaas. They, obviously, want to make use of the very attractive benefits announced by the government. The investments will definitely contribute to the further development of San Nicolaas.

Aruba's Jonathan Lambrinos is a proud recipient of a United World Colleges Scholarship

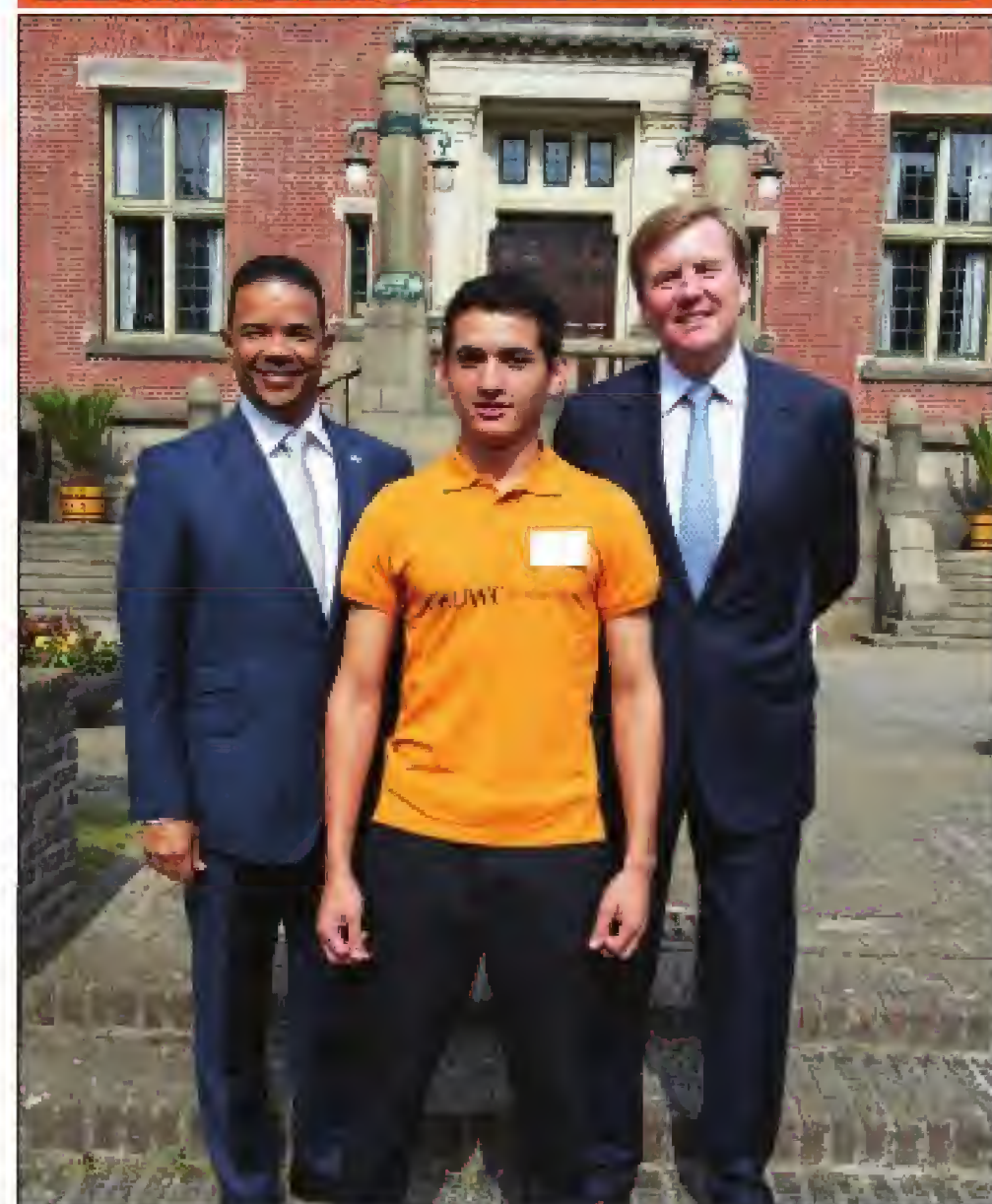


Photo depicts HRM King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba, Edwin Abath and Jonathan Lambrinos at the ceremony of the United World Colleges where 22 new students were granted scholarships, among them Aruban Jonathan Lambrinos. (see story on pg 4)

Mandela on life support: clan elder

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nelson Mandela is on life support, an elder in the South African icon's clan said Wednesday, as President Jacob Zuma called off a scheduled trip to Mozambique.

"Yes, he is using machines to breathe," Nzipilisi Mandela told AFP after visiting the anti-apartheid hero. "It is bad, but what can we do."

Zuma cancelled a trip scheduled for Thursday after he "found him to be still in a critical condition", a statement from the presidency said.

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RBC Royal Bank and Aruba Reef Care Foundation visit Prinses Amalia School to introduce the "RBC Blue Water Project"



Recently, RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) N.V and Aruba Reef Care organizers paid a courtesy visit to the 5th and 6th

graders of the Prinses Amalia primary school to introduce the RBC Blue Water Project – "Live and Let Live."



The RBC Blue Water Project is a wide-ranging program dedicated to protecting the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. In 2013-2014, RBC Royal Bank will support initiatives that help protect water in all growing towns and cities. The Bank also promotes responsible water use among their employees and clients, who are committed to reducing the intensity of their own water footprint and encourage the growth of water businesses.

This year Blue Water Day was celebrated on June 14. On this special day RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) N.V presented a donation to the Aruba Reef Care foundation; the bank has chosen Aruba Reef Care Foundation and Prinses Amalia school for their Blue Water Project named "Live and Let Live."

RBC Area Vice President Business Banking, Pierre Rafini, gave a presentation to the students on water awareness and some tips on its conservation. The students expressed great interest in the topic and gave their own tips on how to save on water consumption at home.

Mr. Castro Perez of Aruba Reef Care foundation gave a presentation on reef and coral care. The Aruba Reef Care

Project, known originally as the Aruba Underwater Reef Clean-up, was launched in 1994. It continued annually as an initiative of the Aruba Tourism Authority, with the goal to educate the community on the preservation of our marine environment and the eventual establishment of an Aruba Marine Management System.

The students also received an information package from RBC to use as a guide to write a short story on why water is so important for us. RBC will present an award for the most original story submitted. The students must

also create a scale model to illustrate a depleted reef and a healthy one. The model will be exhibited at one of RBC's branches and on June 28, the winner of the short story will be announced at RBC headquarter in the Sasaki Branch.

Photos show Mr. Pierre Rafini during the presentation; Mr Rafini (3rd left) with Castro Perez of Aruba Reef Care, RBC Communications Officer Dutch Caribbean & Suriname Ms Joanna Maya, and Mrs. Maureen Thijsen, teacher at Prinses Amalia School, with the RBC's information package; plus students outside the classroom.

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Aruba Chamber of Commerce Business Plaza 2013: Get Started

Director of Aruba's Chamber of Commerce, (KvK) Leo Maduro, announced that on Saturday, July 6, the chamber will present its second open house, or Business Plaza on Saturday, July 6, beginning at 10:00 AM. Aruba's official business registry will open its doors and host several lectures and workshops throughout the day, as well as schedule one-on-one sessions with KvK experts on what would-be entrepreneurs need to do to get a business started on Aruba.

The entire day, until 3:00 PM, is dedicated to establishing a successful enterprise, not only on Aruba. Healthy business practices will be covered, as well as the particular details of taxes and permits that apply to doing business on Aruba.

Mr. Maduro explained that too business open and close on Aruba annually, many due to poor planning and understanding of undertaking such a venture. The coming KvK Business Plaza wishes to provide these important points:

- Define your business ideas
- Receive valuable information presented by experienced business owners

and/or professionals

- Learn about the steps to take towards setting up your business
- Take advantage of the networking and refreshment break to start building business relationships

Families are welcome to attend, and entertainment in the form of face painting and a dino jump will be provided for youngsters, while parents consult with experts.

The day is sponsored by Aruba Bank, and their Executive Director, Mrs. Gina Habibe, is the morning's keynote speaker with a presentation titled "Start small, grow smart with Aruba Bank."

She will be followed by Mr. Sonja Velhuizen and Mrs. Roxanne Wolff, who will explain "KvK-How to start a small business."

One of the alumni of the KvK entrepreneurial programs will speak on their experience as a starting entrepreneur, and Patrick Melchior, founder of The Marketing Department N.V. will talk on "How to Market Your Business & Attract Clients."

The afternoon sessions beginning at 1:15 PM will

cover important mechanics of a business, such as start-up bookkeeping, business permits, and taxes. Guest speakers include Anthony Cores of Plus Accountants, Louella Croes of the DEACI and Maria Ridderstaat from the Bureau of Intellectual Property, who will discuss "Understanding Trademarks and Trade Names."

Beginning at 11:00 AM, the personal consultations will begin, as will the first of four one-hour workshops taking place every hour on the hour, the last at 2:00 PM. They will cover Business Planning and/or Bookkeeping, and interested parties can select their time and inscribe on the KvK website:

<http://www.arubachamber.com/events/icalrepeat-detail/2013/07/06/290/-/business-plaza-get-started>

All lectures and workshops for the day are absolutely free, but pre-registration is required, as the KvK auditorium has limited space.

This can be done by calling 582-1566 extension 27/30/35 or 42 or via e-mail to businessinfo@arubachamber.com.

Government issues bulletin regarding new labor law



As of April 1st, 2013 the new Labor Law went into effect: Labor Law 2013 (OL 2013). This particular law regulates different issues, for example the hours permitted to work, rest days and overtime compensation.

One of the changes stipulated under OL 2013 is the introduction of the system of working in shifts in the sectors which are not HORECA, the casino sector and companies working under a continuous operation system. The new system will allow flexibility in certain sectors for those working on Sundays and on certain holidays, while avoiding high employee cost for the employer.

While the new law (OL 2013) grants this possibility, this same law stipulates that the Director of the Department of Labor and Investigation (DAO) is authorized to stipulate which companies

may use this system for shift work. This authority has been given the Director, since the consequences for an employee who works shift entails that on Sundays he must work at a rate of 100% (not 200% as was the case before April 1st, 2013).

The Director of DAO has yet to indicate officially which companies will be allowed to work shift hours. There is, however, a concept list, but nothing definite. It is hoped that such a list will be published officially indicating which companies will be allowed to run a shift schedule for their employees.

This means that until the Director of DAO does not officially publish a list, no company can apply the new system as yet. This entails that all employees working normally on Sundays must be paid 200% for their hours.

DAO also wants to emphasize once more that this new shift system is not valid for the HORECA, casino and continuous operation sectors. In their case Sundays is a normal work day.

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Aura Casino: "Where players win"



Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand is the place to play right now! The cash prizes are flowing out and happy players are leaving with big smiles on their faces.

Recently, Mr. **Pedro Maduro** was one of those happy winners. Mr. Maduro

was Mr. **Diego Giraldo**, who won a total amount of **\$1,264,40** at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machine "Outback Jack."

Mr. **George Mullins** also decided to join the winners. Mr. Mullins won a total amount of **\$1,058,52** playing the slot machine "Gigantic Dragons."

And the winning just continues at the Aura Casino as Mrs. **Sandra Wetzel** also finds her lucky streak in the Casino "where players win".

Mrs. Wetzel won a total amount of **\$1,550,76** at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

Mr. **Roberto Hasel** was also another happy winner after walking away with the nice sum of **\$1,070**, won on the slot machine "The Magic Flute."

Staff & Management want to congratulate all the lucky winners and invite everyone to come and win at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand: "Where players win."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach.

Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!



found his lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win."

He won the nice amount of **\$1,018,08** while playing on the brand new slot machine "Crazy Bugs."

Another happy winner

Aruba's Jonathan Lambrinos is a proud recipient of a United World Colleges Scholarship



Minister Plenipotentiary Edwin Abath, Jonathan Lambrinos with his parents and brother and Deputy Director of the 'Aruba Huis' Mrs. Shandra John



Jonathan shows off his Scholarship

THE HAGUE – Recently, Aruba's Minister Plenipotentiary to Holland, Edwin Abath, was pleased to receive an invitation by United World Colleges (UWC) to be present during the granting of scholarships to 22 new students. The ceremony took place at the Vredespaleis in The Hague. Mr. Abath was included on the guest list because one of the recipients is Aruba-born Jonathan Lambrinos.

Jonathan Lambrinos is an alumnus of Colegio Arubano. The next school year he plans to study medicine at the UWC in Maastricht. He reports he is very proud to have received this scholarship.

United World Colleges (or UWC) is an education movement comprising 12 international schools and colleges, national committees in more

than 140 countries and a series of short educational programs. Students (age 16-18) are selected from around the globe based on their merit and potential. UWC schools, colleges and national committees offer scholarship and bursary schemes as well as accepting fee-paying students.

The UWC international organization is a British based foundation and has 12 schools and colleges in Canada, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Norway, Singapore, Swaziland, the United States, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Netherlands. It has national committees in more than 140 countries, a portfolio of short programs running in numerous nations and a network of more than 50,000 alumni from more

than 181 countries. They maintain an International Office in London.

UWC students, through their diverse experience, i.e. in social or academic matters, are encourage to make positive changes in benefit of the community as part of their education. UWC concentrates mostly on their social work internships. The UWC scholarships are financed by various bodies, i.e. sponsors, businesses, government and foundations. The first UWC opened its doors in Wales, Great Britain in 1962, now there are 12 schools throughout the world. In September, 2009, the UWC officially opened its university in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

Present at the awarding of the scholarships was HRM King Willem-Alexander, a graduate and sponsor of UWC in the Netherlands. Also present was Deputy Director of the Aruba House, Mrs. Shandra John, as were Jonathan's parents and brother. Afterwards, a small celebration was conducted for the students with their parents, friends and sponsors.

Aruba Minister Plenipotentiary, in name of all is fellow countrymen, wished Jonathan all the best in continuing his studies and achieving his goals.

Dutch woman freezes dead mother, unable to say goodbye

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch woman kept her dead 83-year-old mother in the freezer for a week because she couldn't bring herself to say goodbye, police said on Wednesday.

"The woman froze her mother's body and kept it for a week," police spokeswoman Esther Boot told AFP.

"She couldn't say goodbye," Boot said.

A family friend contacted police on Monday, saying they could "no longer live" with the secret of the body in the freezer.

Police went to the house in Kamperland, a small town in the southwestern Netherlands, and the 46-year-old daughter immediately confessed.

"There was no indication that the mother didn't die of natural causes, but the body has nevertheless been taken for an autopsy," Boot said.

The daughter was taken to the police station, interviewed and examined by a psychiatrist and allowed to return home.

Police said the daughter was "too sad" to let her mother go.

"She wanted to keep her nearby," Boot said.

The two women had lived together for 17 years, during which time the daughter took care of her mother day and night "with lots of love," police said.

"We don't yet know if there will be criminal proceedings, that's up to the prosecutor," Boot said.

"Technically it's a crime to keep a body in the freezer."

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Winfrey heads Forbes celeb 'power' list



NEW YORK (AFP) - Television talk show queen Oprah Winfrey was named the most powerful celebrity in the world on Wednesday as Forbes.com released its annual

list of the top movers and shakers in the entertainment industry.

Winfrey, 59, who was ranked in the top spot despite her signature daytime television show Oprah ending its 25-year run in 2011, headed a 100-strong list which featured six women in the top 10.

Forbes.com uses a complex methodology to come up with its list, taking into account various factors including earnings, the number of mentions each celebrity gets

in print and television and their Internet presence before deciding the rankings.

The website also gives each celebrity a marketability score out of 100 developed by a California-based market research firm.

Winfrey made an estimated \$77 million between June 2012 and June 2013, significantly less than other rivals on the list but came out on top after scoring well in areas such as press mentions and social networking power,

Forbes.com said.

In second place was eccentric pop star Lady Gaga, who earned \$80 million in the same period, while Hollywood titan Steven Spielberg was third. The legendary director and producer earned a cool \$100 million in the past year.

The next three spots were occupied by women from the music world, with Beyonce Knowles in fourth (\$53 million), Madonna in fifth (\$125 million) and Taylor Swift

(\$55 million).

Rock band Bon Jovi took seventh with \$79 million while Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer was the only athlete to make the list as he came in eighth.

Federer, sensationally dumped out of Wimbledon in the second round on Wednesday, pocketed \$71 million.

Rounding out the top 10 were singer Justin Bieber (\$58 million) and television comedienne Ellen DeGeneres (\$56 million).



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Snowden 'stuck' in Moscow as Ecuador warns on asylum

MOSCOW (AFP) - US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden spent a fourth day at a Moscow airport on Wednesday with his travel plans still a mystery as Ecuador warned it could take months to consider his asylum request.

The man responsible for one of the biggest intelligence security breaches in US history has not been sighted since arriving in Moscow on a flight from Hong Kong on Sunday and according to Russia is still in a transit zone at Sheremetyevo airport.

"He has not violated Russian law, he has not crossed the border, he is in the transit zone of the airport and can fly anywhere that he wants," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying by the foreign ministry.

But United States has revoked his passport and is applying persistent pressure on Moscow to hand over Snowden, who leaked sensational revelations of massive US surveillance programmes to the media.

Anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, which is assisting him and claims Snowden left Hong Kong with a refugee document supplied by Ecuador, said he risks being stuck in Russia "perma-

nently".

Ecuador, which earlier this week raised the prospect he would make a dash for Quito after revealing that Snowden had requested asylum, said it would take some time to decide the application.

The leftist Latin American state, led by populist President Rafael Correa, is already sheltering WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange at its embassy in London as he faces extradition to Sweden over allegations of sexual assault.

"It took us two months to make a decision in the case of Assange so do not expect us to make a decision sooner this time," said Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino in Malaysia.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, who by coincidence is expected in Moscow next week for an energy summit, said Caracas would also consider any asylum request.

--- 'He could stay in transit for 10 years' ---

President Vladimir Putin had on Tuesday described Snowden as a free man but indicated that Moscow was keen to see the back of him.

"Mr Snowden is a free man, the sooner he selects his final destination point, the better for us and for himself," he said, in a comment echoed

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US gay military spouses to get same benefits: Hagel

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Spouses of gays in the military will get the same benefits as their straight counterparts, the US defense chief said Wednesday in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage.

"The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses -- regardless of sexual orientation -- as soon as possible," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a statement.

"That is now the law and it is the right thing to do."

In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court struck down

the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits to married gay and lesbian couples by strictly defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"Every person who serves our nation in uniform stepped forward with courage and commitment. All that matters is their patriotism, their willingness to serve their country, and their qualifications to do so," Hagel said.

"Today's ruling helps ensure that all men and women who serve this country can be treated fairly and equally, with the full dignity and respect they so richly deserve."

Neighbor heard 'boy's cry for help' before US teen died

SANFORD (AFP) - A witness in the high-profile trial of a Florida neighborhood watch volunteer accused of murdering a black teen testified Wednesday she heard a "boy's cry for help" before a gun was fired.

Jane Surdyka, a former neighbor of defendant George Zimmerman, told the court she went to her window after hearing a scuffle and saw two men before hearing a boy's plea and multiple gunshots in the gated community in Sanford.

Only one shot was fired, however, in the altercation that left 17-year-old Trayvon

Martin dead in a case that has stirred racial tensions in the United States.

The judge meanwhile handed the prosecution a small victory by ruling that the jury should hear calls Zimmerman made to police in the six months before he fatally shot Martin.

Zimmerman, 29, has pleaded not guilty, saying he shot Martin in self-defense on the rainy night of February 26, 2012 after the teen knocked him to the ground and started bashing his head against the sidewalk.

He faces second-degree murder charges that can carry

a life sentence.

Martin's supporters accuse Zimmerman of racial profiling, saying he ignored police advice and pursued Martin, who was unarmed and had no criminal record.

Defense attorneys had opposed the release of Zimmerman's previous calls to the police, arguing that they were irrelevant to the trial and that in any case they demonstrated "good, responsible, citizen behavior."

The prosecution argued that the calls showed Zimmerman's state of mind and growing frustration with repeated break-ins at the community.



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International News

Dutch coffee shops guilty of selling drugs to tourists

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch court on Wednesday fined six coffee shop owners and workers for selling cannabis to non-residents, in a victory for Dutch authorities' fight against drug tourism.

Prosecutors had sought up to one-month suspended jail terms for the owners and staff of cannabis cafes in Maastricht for selling pot to foreign non-residents in defiance of a controversial law.

The six were ordered to pay fines of between 250 and 2,500 euros. A seventh accused was cleared because of lack of evidence.

The court was relatively lenient as the coffee shops had deliberately flouted the law because they hoped the case would set a legal precedent in their favour, arguing that the residence criterion was unconstitutional.

"The residence criterion does indeed indirectly discriminate people based on nationality, but this distinction is objectively justified by reasonable and legitimate interests," the judgement said.

Foreigners, mainly from Germany and Belgium, constitute two-thirds of coffee shops' clientele in Maastricht, a Roman city of 120,000.

A controversial law introduced in May 2012 requires coffee shops to cater only for Dutch residents in the hope of addressing the downsides of drug tourism -- traffic jams, street dealing and rowdy late-night partying.

A new, more left-wing government said in November that individual city authorities could decide whether to apply the law affecting some 650 es-

tablishments nationwide, according to their economic or social priorities.

Most Dutch cities, including those in Amsterdam, said they did not want to apply the law, while Maastricht and other southern cities said they would do so.

Although cannabis is technically illegal in The Netherlands, the country in 1976 decriminalised possession of less than five grammes (around a sixth of an ounce) of the drug.

US celebrity chef sorry yet defiant over race scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US celebrity chef Paula Deen, embroiled in a scandal over past racist remarks, said Wednesday she never intended to cause any harm and was "heartbroken" by the controversy.

But in her first live television appearance on the topic, a defiant Deen suggested others jealous of her success are to blame for the media firestorm.

The self-proclaimed queen of Southern cooking, a culinary icon in the United States, and has faced a backlash over her comments in a deposition for a discrimination lawsuit filed by a former employee.

In the document, Deen admitted to using a racial slur for African Americans and was subsequently dropped by the Food Network and Smithfield Foods, one of her sponsors.

In an exclusive interview with NBC's "Today" show, a teary Deen turned to "anyone out there that has never said

BRASILIA (AFP) - President Dilma Rousseff met yesterday with Brazil's restive labor unions as she worked out the details of a national plebiscite on political reform in the wake of two weeks of street protests.

Demonstrators however took to the streets once again in at least 12 cities including southeastern Belo Horizonte, where Confederations Cup hosts Brazil faced Uruguay in a semi-final.

The country's five biggest labor unions have called for strikes and demonstrations on July 11 as Brazil confronts a wave of unrest reflecting deep public anger over poor social services and rampant corruption.

something that they wish they could take back."

The 66-year-old, who apologized in two video messages last week after being a no-show on the "Today" show, also said she would never purposely hurt anyone.

Deen said she used the "N-word" on only one occasion "a world ago" -- when a man put a gun to her head decades ago.

"No, it's just not a part of -- it's just not a part of who we are," she said when asked if she ever used the word again.

In addition to appearing on several television shows, Deen has also published more than a dozen cookbooks, opened two restaurants in Savannah, Georgia, and launched product lines.

Last year, fans were outraged when she announced she had Type 2 diabetes and that same day backed diabetes drug Victoza and teamed up with its manufacturer Novo Nordisk in a lucrative deal.

Rousseff meets Brazil unions, pushes reform

Union leaders said they would ask Rousseff to consider shortening the work day, a readjustment of pension and bigger investments in health and education, as demanded by hundreds of thousands of Brazilian protesters in recent days.

Fury over the state of public services in the world's seventh largest economy and the high cost of staging both the Confederations Cup and next year's World Cup has prompted Brazilians to fill the streets demanding change.

Under pressure, Rousseff pledged her leftist government would hold a plebiscite on sweeping political reform, earmarked \$25 billion for public transport and urged tougher penalties for those found guilty of corruption.

She dropped an earlier idea of holding a referendum on the creation of a constituent assembly on reform, in the face of strong protests from lawmakers and jurists.

The plebiscite would be non-binding and allow for debate of several issues, while a referendum involves a popular vote which is binding on the government.

Officials said Rousseff

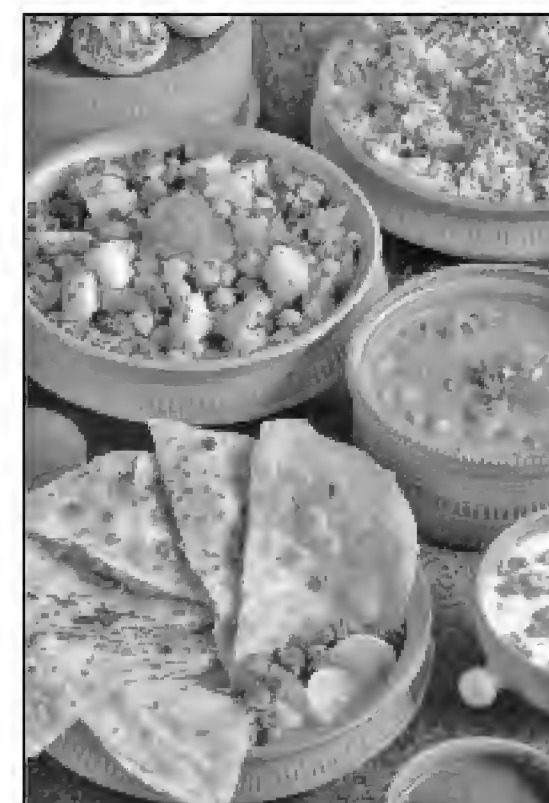
would consult with parties allied to her ruling leftist Workers Party (PT) as well as the opposition to craft the questions related to political reform that will be submitted in the popular plebiscite.

Mercadante said all efforts would be made to hold the plebiscite as soon as possible, as presidential elections are scheduled for October next year.

As a sign the government is listening to public complaints about corruption, the Supreme Court yesterday ordered the immediate detention of lawmaker Natan Donadon, who was sentenced to 13 years in jail in 2010 for embezzlement -- the first such move in 25 years.

Rousseff is seeking to regain the political initiative after mass demonstrations that stunned her government, bringing 1.2 million people into the streets last Thursday alone.

The protesters scored a major victory Tuesday when Congress scrapped a proposed constitutional amendment that sought to curb the investigative powers of independent public prosecutors -- a key demand of the demonstrators.



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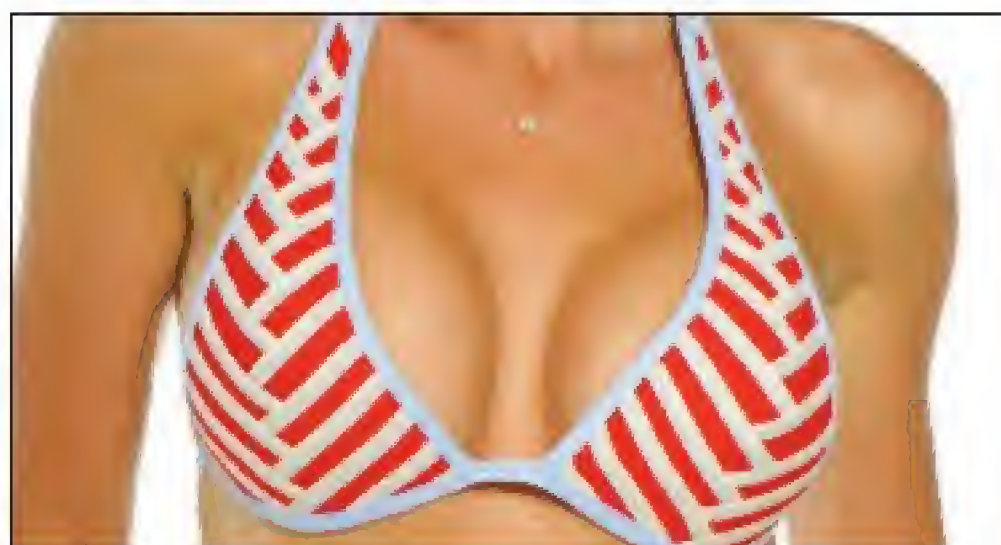
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Health & Living

Breast implant scare: One in four found flawed



PARIS (AFP) - Doctors in France have removed PIP breast implants from more than 16,000 women and found a quarter of the scandal-tainted products had signs of splitting or leakage, a watchdog said on Tuesday.

A total of 16,426 women have had the implants removed since investigators found the devices were twice as likely to rupture as rival brands, and that French manufacturer PIP used industrial silicone to fill them, the National Medicines Safety Agency (ANSM) said.

Of the 28,276 implants that have been removed, 7,186, or 25.4 percent, were defective, it said.

Of these, 4,406 showed signs of splitting in the implants' outer skin, and in 1,976 others, illegal gel was "sweating" through it, the agency

said.

The ANSM's figures apply only to France. An estimated 300,000 women in 65 countries are believed to have received the implants, some 30,000 of them in France.

News of the faulty implants in 2011 sparked fears worldwide, but health officials in various countries have said the prosthetics were not toxic and did not increase the risk of breast cancer.

The ANSM said on Tuesday that it had found 70 cases of breast cancer among women with PIP implants, "but the detected tumours are not associated" with the devices.

PIP founder Jean-Claude Mas, 73, has been charged with manslaughter and fraud. PIP's implants have been banned and the company, located near Marseille, southern France, has been wound up.

US urges hepatitis C test for all baby boomer

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities on Tuesday urged all adults born between 1945 and 1965 to get tested for hepatitis C, saying millions of Americans are unaware that they are infected with the liver disease.

The so-called baby boom generation accounts for three out of four people with hepatitis C, according to Albert Siu, co-chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force.

"Many people in this age group contracted hepatitis C from a blood transfusion or unknown or unreported high-risk behaviors," he said.

The US task force also recommends hepatitis C screening for adults at risk of infection, including people who currently use injection drugs or have in the past, as well as people who received a blood transfusion before 1992.

About 1.5 percent of the US population is infected with hepatitis C, making it one of the most common causes of chronic liver disease in the United States today, according to the US National Library of Medicine.

The disease can cause cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.

More than 15,000 people died of hepatitis C infections in 2007, compared to 12,734 who died from HIV-related causes, said the data published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

US says will retire most research chimps



WASHINGTON — The US government said Wednesday it will send most of its 360 research chimpanzees into retirement but will keep a small colony of about 50 for possible future studies on vaccines and behavior. The National Institutes of Health announced after more than two years of examination it was accepting most of the recommendations of independent experts to phase out the bulk of biomedical research using the primates. The remaining 50 will not be bred, and may be used for research on creating a hepatitis C vaccine and for study of behavior and psychology, NIH director Francis Collins said.

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Sci-Tech

Snowden likely overstepped access at NSA: experts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities are looking into how a low-level IT contractor managed to get hold of top secret documents that are usually accessible to only a small number of insiders, experts say.

Edward Snowden's bombshell leaks about National Security Agency spying included an order from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA), which has kept its documents secret for more than three decades.

Fewer than 100 people likely would have permission to see such an order, Deitz, a professor of public policy at George Mason University, told AFP.

The wide range of information Snowden exposed, which covered separate programs, raised the possibility he may have exceeded his authorized access to

get his hands on the secret files, former officials said.

Snowden's leaks to The Guardian and Washington Post newspapers appeared to differ from the case of Bradley Manning, the American soldier now on trial for espionage after leaking a massive trove of secret files.

Manning, an army private working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq, appeared to have permission to trawl through a huge stream of classified diplomatic cables and military intelligence reports, which he later passed to the WikiLeaks website.

Snowden was not an intelligence analyst and "he was supposed to be maintaining the network, but he was possibly looking at the traffic," said James Lewis, a former US official specializing in cyber security.

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'Password fatigue' haunts Internet masses

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Looking for a safe password? You can give HQbgbiZVu9AWcqoSZmChwgtMYTrM7HE3ObVWGepMeOsJf4iHMyNXMT1BrySA4d7 a try. Good luck memorizing it.

Sixty-three random alphanumeric characters -- in this case, generated by an online password generator -- are as good as it gets when it comes to securing your virtual life.

But as millions of Internet users have learned the hard way, no password is safe when hackers can, and do, pilfer them en masse from banks, email services, retailers or social media websites that fail to fully protect their servers.

And besides, with technology growing by leaps and bounds, why does the username-and-password formula -- a relic of computing's Jurassic era -- remain the norm?

"The incredibly short answer is, it's cheap," said Per Thor-

sheim, a Norwegian online security expert and organizer of PasswordCon, the world's only conference dedicated to passwords, taking place in Las Vegas in July.

"If you want anything else -- if you want some kind of two-factor authentication that involves using a software-based token, a hardware-based token or biometric authentication -- you need something extra," he told AFP. "And that will cost you extra money." Back in the beginning, it was all so easy.

The very first computers were not only room-sized mainframes, but also stand-alone devices. They didn't connect to each other, so passwords were needed only by a handful of operators who likely knew each other anyway.

Then along came the Internet, binding a burgeoning number of computers, smartphones and tablets into a globe-girdling web that required some virtual means for

strangers to identify each other.

Passwords have thus proliferated so much that it's a daily struggle for users to cope with dozens of them -- and not just on one personal computer, but across several devices.

There's even a name for the syndrome: *password fatigue*.

"People never took passwords very seriously, and then we had a number of really big password breaches," said Marian Merritt, Internet security advocate for software provider Norton. "As people are increasingly accessing websites from smartphones and tablets, typing passwords is becoming an ever bigger pain," added Sarah Needham of Confident Technologies, developers of a picture-based password alternative.

In a 24-nation survey last year, Norton found that 40 percent of users don't bother with complex passwords or fail to change their passwords on a regular basis.

Rival security app firm McAfee says its research indicates that more than 60 percent of users regularly visit five to 20 websites that require passwords, and that a like-sized proportion preferred easy-to-use passwords.

The most popular passwords, infamously, are "password" and "123456," according to Mark Burnett, whose 2005 book "Perfect Password: Selection, Protection, Authentication" was among the first on the topic.

Carl Windsor, director of product management at California-based network security firm Fortinet, said he once ran John the Ripper, a free program to crack passwords, through an employer's Unix system with its consent.

Within seconds, Windsor had one-third of its passwords. Within minutes, he had another third. "I also won a bet by find-

ing the 'super secure' password of a colleague in less than five minutes," he told AFP by email.

Password alternatives are in the pipeline.

Google is toying with the idea of users tapping their devices with personalized coded finger rings or inserting unique ID cards called Yubikeys into the USB ports of their computers.

The FIDO Alliance, a consortium that includes PayPal, is pushing an open-source system in which, for instance, websites would ask smartphone users to identify themselves by placing their fingertips on their touchscreens.

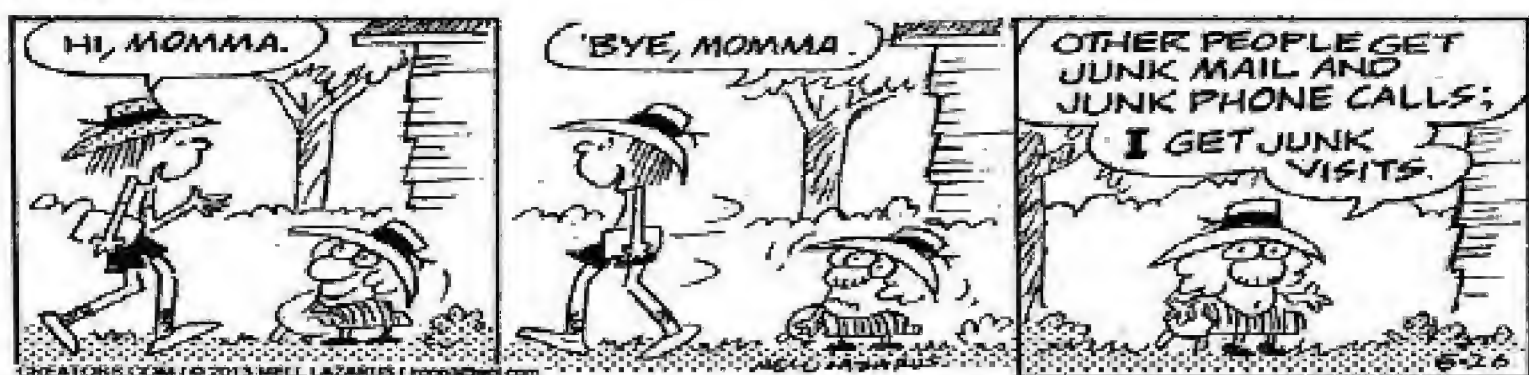
Kesanupalli said FIDO technology could be available as early as this year, bettering IBM fellow David Nahamoo's prediction in 2011 that biometrics would replace passwords within five years.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. California's time (abbr.)
4. RBI or ERA
8. Arrived
12. Grassy meadow
13. Cleveland's state
14. Mary Baker —
15. Devour
16. Wedding transport
17. Rx notation
18. Pain reliever brand
20. One — customer (2 wds.)

22. What a bar bouncer checks
23. Watch parts
27. Atkins and Huntley
30. Hole
31. "Oh, give — home..." (2 wds.)
32. Word on a diet-food package
33. Before, in poems
34. Burns and Jennings
35. It follows morning (abbr.)
36. Foot the bill
37. Natives of Helsinki
38. Baby's first apparel

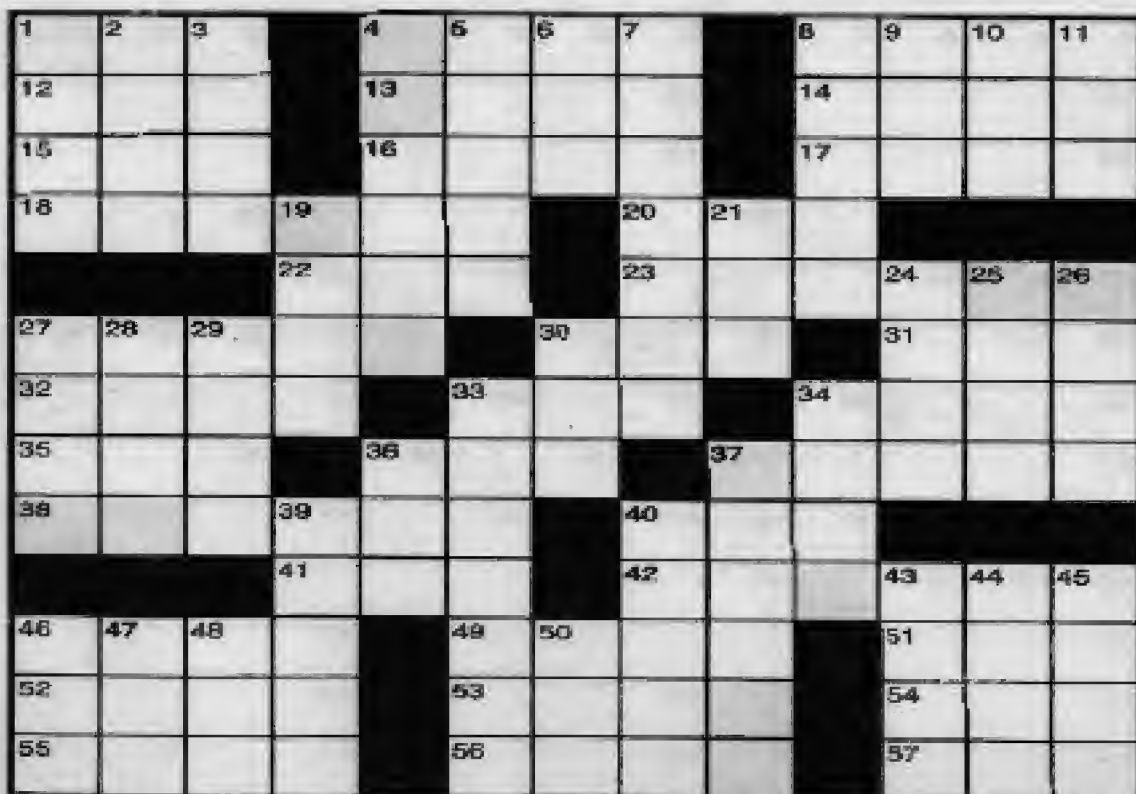
40. Angled annex
41. Bonn "one"
42. Sound of bells out of tune
46. Poker premium
49. Currier's partner
51. "Electric" swimmer
52. Drench
53. Scarf spot
54. — Gatos
55. Wayside taverns
56. Obtains
57. Opp. of NNW

DOWN

1. Entreaty
2. Lennon or Astin
3. "Cheerio!" (2 wds.)
4. Nonliquid

foods

5. Wheat — (crackers)
6. Marksman's expertise
7. Dustin Hoffman role
8. Deck wood
9. Fuss
10. Physicians (abbr.)
11. Ogle
19. Reference
21. Mel of Cooperstown
24. Prayer ending
25. Philadelphia's founder
26. Back talk
27. Attired
28. Stereo's relative (hyph.)
29. "Tell Mama" singer James
30. Nose around
33. Meriting
34. Pottery oven
36. Canadian prov.
37. Pocket-sized bottles
39. Looks through a keyhole
40. VCR button
43. Coagulates
44. Some summer babies
45. "Or —!"
46. " — was saying..." (2 wds.)
47. Pierre's refusal
48. Sunbather's hue
50. Victory sign



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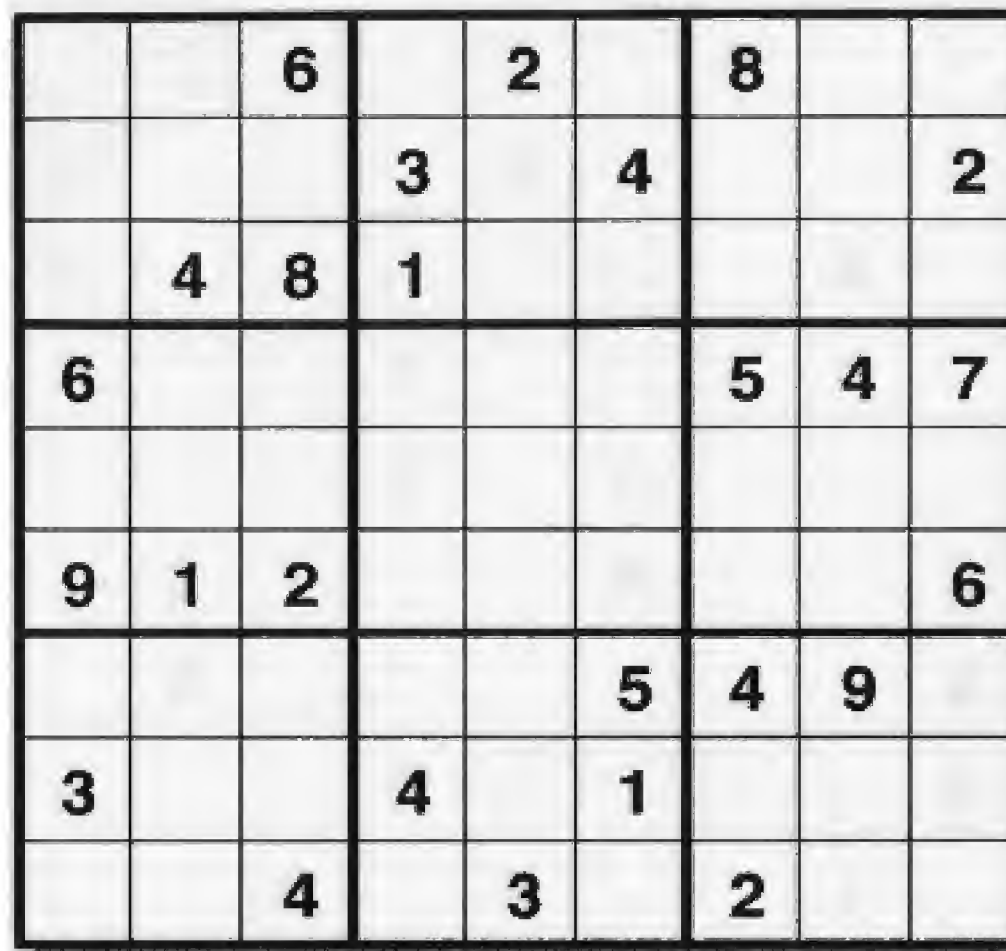
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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8	2	9	1	6	7	5	3	4
6	8	4	5	2	3	1	9	7
9	9	6	2	7	9	3	1	6
1	2	6	8	9	8	1	8	7
2	7	5	2	1	6	5	8	9
8	6	2	8	5	1	9	7	3
2	9	1	7	8	6	5	4	3
7	5	8	6	2	2	9	6	1

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In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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US stocks jump as market sees Fed support staying

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks Wednesday surged after investors took a reduced estimate of US first-quarter economic growth as a sign the Federal Reserve would maintain its aggressive bond-buying program.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 149.83 (1.02 percent) to 14,910.14.

The broad-based S&P 500 rose 15.23 (0.96 percent) to 1,603.26, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index added 28.34 (0.85 percent) to 3,376.22.

The gains came after the Commerce Department slashed its estimate for first-quarter growth from 2.4 percent to 1.8 percent.

Investors "now understand that the Fed is only going to pull back on its QE if the economy is continuing to improve," said Michael James, managing director of trading at Wedbush Morgan Securities.

Analysts said the market was also primed to rally after a steep sell-off last week, brought on by worries then of a pullback in Fed stimulus.

Big companies posting large gains included Microsoft (up 2.1 percent), Boeing (up 2.1 percent) and Johnson & Johnson (up 1.9 percent).

General Mills fell 0.5 percent after forecasting that 2014 earnings would come in at \$2.87-\$2.90 per share, below the \$2.93 seen by analysts.

Agrotech giant Monsanto dropped 0.6 percent after revenues came in at \$4.2 billion,

below the \$4.4 billion forecast by analysts. Profits were six cents per share above the \$1.60 expected.

Coal producers Arch Coal (-5.0 percent), Consol Energy (-3.0 percent) and Peabody Energy (-3.3 percent) continued to sink in the wake of the Obama administration's climate policy announced Tuesday, which could force costly investments in clean technologies and promotes rival energy sources.

Bond prices jumped. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury fell to 2.54 percent from 2.59 percent Tuesday, while the 30-year fell to 3.57 percent from 3.61 percent. Bond prices move inversely to yields.

EU ministers hold crunch talks on bank rescues

BRUSSELS (AFP) - EU finance ministers began talks in Brussels on Wednesday aimed at agreeing rules on future bank rescues -- a sensitive issue in efforts to prevent another eurozone debt crisis.

Marathon talks between the finance ministers last week ended with no deal and the latest negotiations come on the eve of a summit of EU leaders where an agreement would be formalised.

The crux of the matter is who foots the bill when a bank falters, and what room for manoeuvre governments can have to decide a strategy for dealing with the situation after widely differing experiences in Europe in recent years.

The issue is a touchy one because it will decide what costs bank shareholders, creditors and account holders will bear in "bail-ins" -- when lenders are forced to assume losses instead of turning to governments for state funds.

A draft proposal last week foresaw shareholders taking initial losses, followed by creditors, bond holders and finally depositors with more than 100,000 euros in their accounts.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A total of 328 website domains accused of selling counterfeit goods were seized by US and European authorities in the latest crackdown on online fraud, officials said Wednesday.

US authorities seized 177 domain names for websites selling counterfeit trademark merchandise manufactured by American-owned Rosetta Stone, NFL, Beats by Dre, Tiffany & Co and others, according to a statement.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations said court orders for the seizures were issued after the affected companies confirmed the products were counterfeit or otherwise illegal.

Another 151 sites were shut down by the European Police (Europol) in coordination with authorities in Belgium, France, Romania and Britain.

"It is important to stop the sale of counterfeit products over the Internet as it undermines legitimate businesses and also often causes health

FINANCE

US-EU fraud crackdown seizes 328 websites

and safety risks to consumers," said Rob Wainwright, director of Europol, in the statement from Washington.

"This successful transatlantic operation sends an important message to the criminals showing them that they cannot hide despite the fact that they are operating via the Internet.

Officials said they also seized more than \$150,000 in proceeds from PayPal accounts linked to illegal sales.

US officials have been using this procedure for several years in anti-counterfeiting operations, but rights groups including the American Civil Liberties Union have com-

plained that the actions amount to unconstitutional seizures without due process.

But David Hirschmann of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center hailed the actions.

"The criminals behind these websites hack away at American jobs and push dangerous products, such as medications and children's toys, into our homes and neighborhoods," he said.

The latest seizure brought the number of websites seized since 2010 to 2,352, including 1,624 forfeited to the US government, according to ICE.

Africa withstands global investment downturn

ACCRA (AFP) - Africa remained a relatively strong destination for foreign investors in 2012 despite an 18-percent drop in foreign direct investment worldwide, a United Nations report said.

Foreign investment to the continent rose 5.5 percent to \$50 billion in 2012, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's annual World Investment Report.

The percentage increase was however significantly lower than in 2011, which saw a nine-percent boost over the previous year.

Foreign investment dropped to \$1.35 trillion worldwide compared to \$1.65 trillion in 2011, with spending hit by continued investor uncertainty over the world economy's recovery since the 2008 financial

crisis.

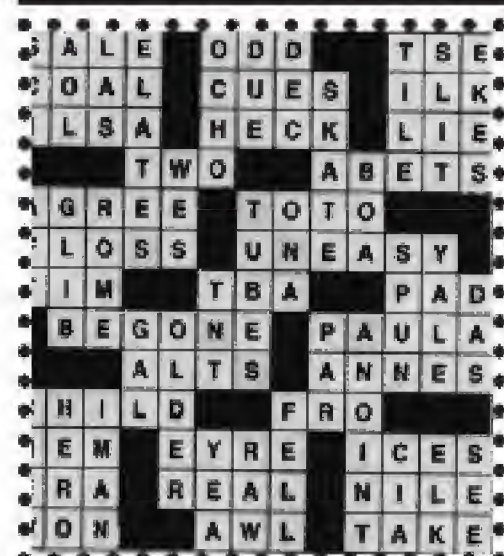
For the first time, the developing world overtook developed countries when it comes to foreign investment, bringing in 52 percent of foreign investment worldwide.

Africa is home to some of the world's fastest growing economies, many of which are new democracies bouncing back from years of war, military rule or economic mismanagement.

The International Monetary Fund announced in April that it expects the continent's economies to grow at 5.6 percent in 2013, led by rapidly growing economies like Mozambique and Nigeria.

Analysts however warn that such growth has in some cases not equated with significant development and poverty reduction.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Current as of: 06/26/2013				
	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.72
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.78
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	190.526
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	234.30
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.01
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Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.74
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	184.01

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Pope launches sweeping Vatican banking probe

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis is launching a sweeping study of the scandal-plagued Vatican bank before a possible clear-out of top management at the Holy See, the Vatican revealed on Wednesday.

In his first real step towards reform, the pontiff is to take a hands-on approach, ensuring that everything a special five-member commission uncovers will be reported directly to him.

The 76-year-old is particularly keen to "better know the judicial position and activities" of the Institute for Works of Religion (IOR), as it is known, which has struggled to shake off its murky image amid persistent reports of shady dealings.

The Vatican said the commission would have top-level access allowing it to get its hands on all documentation.

Religious expert Andrea Tornielli agreed, saying it was "an innovative decision."

"Before he carries out reforms, Francis wants to know everything, and I mean everything that happens within the shadow of the Nicolo V bastion," the bank's headquarters, he wrote in La Stampa daily's Vatican Insider.

The bank has a troubled history, which includes the collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano, in which the Holy See was the main share-



holder, and which had been accused of laundering money for the Sicilian mafia.

The chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, Roberto Calvi -- dubbed "God's Banker" in the press -- was found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge in London in 1982 in a suspected murder by mobsters.

In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI created a new financial authority to reform the bank, with the aim of getting the Vatican on a "white list" of countries that cooperate with efforts against money laundering drawn up by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

But critics complained that his approach was toothless and many are watching to see whether Francis will overhaul the highest rungs of the institution.

The zeal with which Francis has taken to attacking financial

institutions globally since being elected pontiff in March has raised new questions about the future of the IOR and to what extent it will be affected by general wide-sweeping reforms to the Holy See.

The pope, elected amid an in-house debate over whether it is necessary to have a Vatican bank at all, has railed against the cult of money, calling for a "poor Church".

Earlier this month, Francis named cleric Battista Mario Salvatore Ricca to oversee the IOR's management -- effectively placing a trusted ally in a key position to report to him.

The new committee, headed up by Cardinal Raffaele Farina -- former archivist of the Vatican's Secret Archives, will be made up of four prelates and Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon.

The Vatican promised in 2011 to redouble its efforts to reform the bank and overhaul its financial legislation following reports of anonymous accounts at the bank being used by organised crime.

The move was sparked by an investigation launched after the financial intelligence office at the Bank of Italy noticed two operations by the bank that it deemed suspicious.

An Italian court seized 23 million euros (\$29 million) from the bank, releasing it in 2011.

Anne Frank museum must return archives after bitter spat

THE HAGUE (AFP) - An Amsterdam court on Wednesday ordered the city's Anne Frank museum to return archives on loan from a Swiss foundation set up by the father of the Jewish teenager, after an acrimonious legal spat.

The court said that Amsterdam's Anne Frank House had until the end of the year to return the extensive family archives, including letters and photos, on loan from the Anne Frank Fonds Basel.

The court also ordered the Anne Frank House to pay the legal costs of the foundation, which was set up by Otto Frank in 1963.

The Anne Frank House said in a statement that it "finds it regrettable that the archives cannot remain in the Anne Frank House."

The museum said it did not dispute who owned the archives, but had not been able to return the documents immediately because they were on long-term loan.

"The Anne Frank House finds it deeply regrettable that the two organisations stood in opposition to each other in court," Anne Frank House director Ronald Leopold said.

"We hope that with this court ruling we can now put this period behind us, and that the partnership... can be re-



sumed in close consultation and dialogue, in the interests of the legacy and the spirit of Anne Frank," Leopold said.

Anne Frank's diary is a moving account of her two years in hiding from the Nazis with her family in a secret annex that is today a popular museum in central Amsterdam.

She died in 1945 aged 15 at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

The case did not involve the actual Anne Frank diaries, which belong to the Dutch state and have been given to the Anne Frank House on permanent loan.

"We didn't expect anything else. The situation is clear, the ownership was clear, the international law is clear," Yves Kugelmann, a member of the board of the Anne Frank Fonds Basel, told AFP.

"It was strange to have to go to court, it was so clear that it was a loan and nothing else."

Chef's Table, "A hidden gem" close to both Palm and Eagle Beach resorts



--Tucked away down the main Bubali Road, just a mile from the Super Food market is one of Aruba's most charming eateries, known for fine food and exceptional surrounding. Chef's Table has been described by loyal patrons as "a hidden gem," and the attention to quality by the amiable staff will prompt the new visitor to agree.

Delightful decorations of original art set the mood in this converted landmark



country home, divided into several cozy rooms. There is also the choice of dining al fresco in the central gardens, one of the great options of eating out on Aruba.

A gourmet menu includes such unique items as an individual Mediterranean Fish Pot, served with pasta, or a creative sauce for the very fresh catch of the day. Guest particularly rave about their



"Surf & Turf," of lobster and filet mignon, uniquely marinated duck breast, and "Black & White Sesame Tuna" served with a Lemon-Zucchini Risotto.

Chef's Table is one of those few restaurants you can count on to be open both Sunday and Monday, as Wednesday is their day off. Don't miss the opportunity to



try this moderately priced, gourmet treat in most pleasant surroundings, and save just a tad of room for their famous "tapas" style desserts, offering a shot glass of sweetness, the perfect end to a delectable meal and most pleasant evening. Visit their website <http://www.chefstablesaruba.com/> to meet Chef Martin and the crew.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store, four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection



Brazil reach Confederations Cup final



Brazil's Paulinho (right) heads past Uruguay's Martin Caceres and goalkeeper Fernando Muslera (left) to book final berth.

BELO HORIZONTE (AFP) - A towering Paulinho header saw Brazil edge out Uruguay 2-1 on Wednesday in an ill-tempered Confederations Cup semi-final in Belo Horizonte to set up a final with either world champions Spain or Italy.

Fred scored from close range two minutes from half-time to calm home nerves for the five-time world champions and Confederations title holders after Diego Forlan had first missed a penalty for Uruguay.

But Edinson Cavani pulled a poachers strike out of the bag three minutes after the restart and thereafter the Samba stars were rocking before Paulinho rose high to plant a firm close-range header past Fernando Muslera in the Uruguay goal to cement a barely deserved victory.

Matches between the South American neighbours have long been tense affairs - not least since the Uruguayans shocked the Brazilians in the 1950 World Cup final in Rio to deny their hosts a first title.

But what gave this meeting added spice as both nations limber up for next year's World Cup were pre-match comments by Uruguayan skipper Diego Lugano labelling Brazilian starlet Neymar a diver.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) issued a furious rebuttal of the claim, but there was clearly no love lost between the sides as they snapped into tackles and scrapped for every smidgin of territory.

Brazil made a sluggish start and Lugano was to the fore as he won a penalty for the Uruguayans after 16 minutes.

The veteran defender tussled with Chelsea centreback David Luiz in the box and went down - but Chilean referee Enrique Osses quickly spotted that Luiz had tugged on his rival's shirt and gave the spotkick.

Uruguay's record goalscorer Forlan stepped forward but placed his low kick too close to Julio Cesar, the Brazilian keeper diving away to his left to push the ball round the post and elicit a deafening cheer from a 60,000 crowd at the Estadio Mineirao.

Around twice that number were in the streets, kept out by a police cordon as they joined yet another protest against crumbling public services and government corruption as well as the multibillion bill for staging major sporting events.

Police said beforehand they expected trouble but Brazil, mindful of coach Luiz Felipe Scolari's urging them to make their countrymen proud, finally awoke from their nervy slumbers and took the lead two minutes before the break with their first chance of note aside from a speculative Oscar effort over the top.

Neymar chased a long punt down the left and stretched to flick the ball across goal for Fred to poke home a scissor kick finish from the edge of the six yard box, sparking pandemonium in the crowd.

By then, Neymar had certainly spent some time on his

back - yet the Barcelona-bound 21-year-old was a marked man as Cavani earned a booking for yanking him back.

Yet Brazil were still nowhere near to finding the flowing form which had brought three wins and nine goals in the group stage and three minutes after the restart Uruguay were level through Cavani, the Napoli man threading a left-foot strike past Cesar.

Some dreadful defending saw the hosts fail to clear their lines as Luiz, Thiago Silva and Luiz Gustavo lost their bearings and Cavani drilled in hard and low to stun the home support.

Forlan then had a half-chance to atone for his earlier faux pas but fired straight at Cesar.

Scolari reacted to an increasingly leaden showing taking off Hulk, replacing him with local favourite Bernard.

Scolari also took off Oscar and sent on Hernanes in an attempt to inject some fresh drive.

Yet it was Uruguay who were turning the screw with first Luis Suarez heading fractionally over from a Forlan cross on 73 minutes before Cavani turned Hernanes inside out and slid an effort just wide as the Uruguayans attacking trident almost embarrassed a shaky home back four.

But with four minutes remaining Neymar whipped over a corner from the left and Paulinho outjumped Martin Caceres and seal their place in the final.



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SPORTS

Arbeloa calls for late starts at World Cup



FORTALEZA (AFP) - Spain defender Alvaro Arbeloa believes matches at next year's World Cup should kick off in the evenings to spare players from the damaging effects of heat and humidity in Brazil's stadiums.

Spain play Italy in the Confederations Cup semi-finals at 1600 local time (1900GMT) in Fortaleza on today, when temperatures are forecast to reach 30 degrees Celsius.

While Spain's 2-1 group-stage win over Uruguay kicked off at 1900, their games against Tahiti and Nigeria both started in the afternoon, and Arbeloa said he and his team-

mates felt the effects.

Asked if games at the 2014 World Cup -- which will also take place during the Brazilian winter -- should start in the evening, the Real Madrid full-back said: "For me, it's an emphatic yes."

"I think it would be much better to play at seven, just like the game against Uruguay. It would be better for the spectators."

Midfielder Sergio Busquets agreed that the conditions were problematic, but said he did not believe the weather would be a significant factor against Italy.

"Regarding the temperature and the humidity, the conditions aren't ideal, but it's the same for both teams," said the Barcelona midfielder.

Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said competing in the Confederations Cup could be an aid to those teams that go on to qualify for the World Cup.

"Playing in a hot, humid climate now might be an advantage for next year, because if we remember what it was like, it might help our staff prepare us," he said.

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Golf: New Day dawns after US Open near-miss

BETHESDA (AFP) - Jason Day discovered something about himself while battling down the back nine for a major title at the US Open two weeks ago, finding himself in a comfort zone he had never felt before.

The 25-year-old Australian, among the favourites in the \$6.5 million US PGA National that opens on Today, says that after four top-three finishes in his 11 major starts, that change might be what he needs for a major breakthrough.

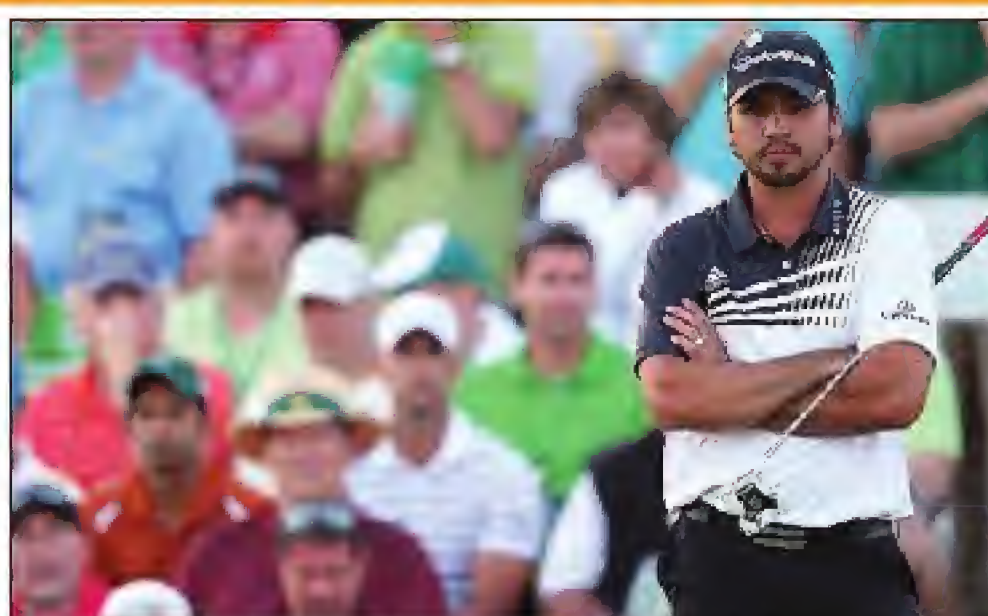
"The US Open, it was surprising how comfortable I was in the last round," Day said Wednesday. There was a little bit of nerves at the start, but other than that, I felt really comfortable.

"When you go out there, you've just got to feel like it's kind of neutral, not too high, not too low. That's kind of what my mentality was out there when I was playing the final round.

"I'm hoping that's what it feels like if I'm close this week again. Hopefully, that's what it feels like in the final round, but it felt like I just kind of turned a corner, which is nice, in my golfing career."

Day shared second at the 2011 Masters and US Open and third at the Masters last April before sharing second behind England's Justin Rose in the US Open at Merion, becoming the only player in the top 10 at this year's first two majors.

Day, who made bogeys at



16 and 17 at Augusta National to miss out on a playoff with Angel Cabrera and eventual winner Adam Scott, won his only PGA title at the 2010 Byron Nelson Championship.

"Although I've only won once, I've come very close a few times now," Day said

when asked how soon he might win again. "I think it's close.

Day failed to capitalise on his solid 2011 major showing, in part because he became a father last year, but has five top-10 finishes this year and is ready for extra work he said would have brought him more wins by now had he done it.

"I feel like I should have won more, but I have a feeling if I can get past this hurdle and turn the corner and win, I feel like within myself I can win multiple times a year," Day said.

"If I had worked a little harder, if I put that extra ball

or extra 30 minutes in chipping or putting, I might have got me one or two extra by now.

Day takes more from his major near misses this year than from his 2010 Byron Nelson victory.

"Probably the close calls I've had at Merion and Augusta, just knowing that I can play against the best players in the world with everyone watching around the world, knowing that I can step up and hit the shots at the right time, it brings a lot of confidence to my game that everything that I've been doing in the off weeks is paying off," Day said.

Day is confident coming into this week's event at Congressional Country Club, where he finished second to Rory McIlroy in the 2011 US Open.

"This course, it feels like a US Open again," Day said. "It has got some length to it and the rough is pretty dense out there. Hitting fairways is crucial this week and short game around the greens is very big as well."

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Former Patriots....

continued from page 16

"A young man was murdered last week and we extend our sympathies to the family and friends who mourn his loss," the statement said.

"Words cannot express the disappointment we feel knowing that one of our players was arrested as a result of this investigation.

Suspicion fell on Hernandez almost immediately after the discovery of the 27-year-old Lloyd's body at an industrial park close to the NFL player's home in North Attleborough, roughly 40 miles (65 kilometers) outside Boston.

ABC, citing police sources, reported that a video security system at the home of Hernandez had been deliberately destroyed and that the portable phone a lawyer for Hernandez gave to police had been smashed into pieces.

At Wednesday's court hearing, McCauley said surveillance video from Hernandez's house had captured him walk-

ing through his home holding a pistol in the hours after the killing.

Reports earlier said Hernandez had also hired specialist house cleaners to scrub down his home in the days after the killing.

Law enforcement sources told the Fox station and ABC that Hernandez and Lloyd had been seen at several nightclubs before the killing. Hernandez's neighbors reportedly heard gunshots shortly after 3:00 am on June 17.

Hernandez, who has played three seasons for the Patriots, received a \$12.5 million bonus when he sealed a contract extension last August which took him up to 2013.

He made 79 catches for 910 yards and seven touchdowns in the 2011 season but played only 10 games last year due to injuries, making 51 catches for 483 yards and five touchdowns.

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Tennis: Federer, Sharapova crash out on black Wednesday



LONDON (AFP) - Seven-time winner Roger Federer and 2004 champion Maria Sharapova suffered humiliating Wimbledon defeats on an injury-cursed black Wednesday which turned the All England Club upside down.

Defending champion Federer, the third seed, lost to Ukraine's world number 116, Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5), 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in his worst Grand Slam defeat for a decade.

Sharapova, the third seed, slumped to a shock 6-3, 6-4 loss to Portuguese qualifier Michelle Larcher De Brito, the world 131.

The defeats came just two days after Rafael Nadal had exited in the first round.

They also occurred on a day when the famed grass-courts of Wimbledon came under fire after seven players either withdrew or retired with injuries.

Women's world number two Victoria Azarenka and men's sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga were amongst the casualties which eased the title paths of Serena Williams and Andy Murray.

Federer's defeat ended his run of 36 consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final appearances, having not gone out of a major before the last eight since the 2004 French Open.

It was his earliest Wimbledon defeat since he was knocked out in the first round in 2002 by Mario Ancic.

NFL: Former Patriots star charged with murder



NEW YORK (AFP) - Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez was charged with murder on Wednesday following the shooting death of a man whose bloodied body was found dumped less than a mile from his home.

After days of speculation linking the 23-year-old tight end to the killing of Odin Lloyd on June 17, police officers swooped on Hernandez at

his \$1.7 million luxury mansion early Wednesday before leading him away in handcuffs.

The multi-millionaire sports star was later arraigned at Attleborough District Court on charges of murder, unlawful possession of a firearm, and possession of a large capacity firearm, Massachusetts State Police said.

Prosecutor William Mc-

Cauley told a packed hearing Hernandez and two other unidentified associates had murdered Lloyd in an execution-style slaying because he was angry his friend had spoken with people he "had troubles with."

Lloyd was driven to a remote industrial park and shot five times -- including once as he lay on the ground, raising an arm in a vain effort to protect himself.

"He orchestrated his execution," McCauley said.

A lawyer for Hernandez requested that the former NFL star be freed on bail pending trial but the request was denied by the judge.

Shortly after his arrest, the Patriots announced in a statement on their website that Hernandez had been released from his contract.

continues on page 15



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